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The University of Montana

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April 20, 1994

UM TO CELEBRATE MIDDLE EASTERN, NORTH AFRICAN CULTURE

MISSOULA --

The president of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations will be among the featured speakers when The University of Montana celebrates Middle Eastern and North African Cultural Week with a full slate of events Tuesday through Sunday, April 26-May 1.

John Duke Anthony will present the week's keynote address, "U.S.-Arab Relations: Conceptions and Misconceptions," at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Science Complex Room 131. Anthony is an adjunct professor of Middle East Studies at the Defense Intelligence College and the Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management.

Area residents can sample Middle Eastern food, music and dance Wednesday during Middle Eastern Heritage Night. The cultural festival will feature a dinner of 13 authentic Middle Eastern and North African dishes, followed by music and folk dancing. Festivities will begin at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 300 East Main Street. The dinner is the week's only event with an admission fee: Tickets cost \$14 per person and can be purchased at Worden's Market and Freddy's Feed and Read.

On Thursday, Walla Walla College Professor Ali Ahmida will discuss "Nationalism and Modern Social Themes in Arab Cinema" at 6:30 p.m. in Urey Lecture Hall. Ahmida is the author of "The Making of Modern Lybia: State Formation, Colonization and Resistance."

Harvard University history Professor Merhdad Izady will discuss "Kurds: The First Flower People" at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Urey Lecture Hall. Izady, the author of "Kurds," specializes in the

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history and culture of the Kurdish people.

The week's last lecture, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Journalism 304, will feature Alia Arasoughly, professor of mass communications and third world cinema at Northeastern University in Boston. Arasoughly, a widely published expert on Arab cinema and the role of women in Arab countries, will discuss "Islam and Women in the Arab Cinema."

A film festival will feature free showings of 14 Middle Eastern and North African films Thursday through Sunday. The films, shown with subtitles, represent the work of award-winning directors whose films have been shown extensively in their homelands and in Europe. A panel discussion featuring UM students, faculty and community members will be held after each showing.

The festival will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday with "Tea in the Harem," a film from Algeria, in Urey Lecture Hall. On Friday, Tajikistan's "Three Episodes," Iran's "Bashu: A Little Stranger," and Egypt's "The Sparrow" will be shown in Urey Lecture Hall starting at 7:45 p.m. Two films will be shown that evening in Journalism Room 304 beginning at 8 p.m.: "A Door to the Sky," from Morocco, and "Zarife: The Dancing Bear," Turkey.

Saturday's films, all in Journalism 304, will include: "A Fictitious Marriage," Israel, 3 p.m.; "Torn Living," Palestine, 6:30 p.m.; and "Hyenas Under the Sun," Tunisia, 8 p.m. Three films are scheduled Sunday in Journalism 304: "Message (Muhammad, the Messenger of God), Saudi Arabia/Lybia, 6 p.m.; "Razor's Edge," Lebanon, 9 p.m.; and "Ali le Bienheureux," Algeria/France, 11 p.m.

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